

Attorney Docket No. 7175-73441

Application No. 10/664,535 (Filed September 19, 2003)

Reply to Office Action dated October 16, 2006

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A method of providing suction and irrigation to treating an open wound having a wound surface located inwardly of healthy skin surrounding the open wound, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a relatively thin and flexible member having a wound contacting surface with holes in the wound contacting surface, a port to be attached to a vacuum source and a fluid source for irrigation, a plurality of passageways connecting the holes to the port, and spacers coupled to the wound contacting surface,

placing positioning the member so that at least a portion of the member is inside the open wound having at least some of the spacers resting against the wound surface of the wound to space the wound contacting surface of the member apart from the wound surface of the wound, and

providing a cover over and sealed about the wound and the member to define a space above the wound surface in which a vacuum is formed when the port is connected to a vacuum source.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 36 claim 32, wherein the flexible member is transparent for observing the wound surface of the wound.

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 36 claim 32, further comprising the step of irrigating the wound surface of the wound by expelling irrigation fluid from through the holes.

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein the irrigating step irrigating the wound surface by expelling irrigation fluid through the holes includes irrigating the

wound surface of the wound by introducing irrigation fluid through a plurality of irrigation ports in communication with the holes of the member.

36-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) A method of treating an open wound having a wound surface located below healthy skin surrounding the open wound, the method comprising the steps of:

placing positioning a relatively thin and flexible member adjacent so that at least a portion of the member is inside the open wound surface, the member having a wound facing surface adapted to face the wound with holes in the wound facing surface located inside the open wound below the healthy skin surrounding the open wound, the member also having a port, port and passageways connecting the holes to the port,

spacing the wound facing surface of the member apart from the wound surface to define a space between the wound surface and the wound facing surface of the member,

covering the wound and the member with a film,

sealing the film to healthy skin surrounding the wound to create a sealed environment between the film and the wound surface,

coupling a port of the member to a vacuum source,

creating a negative pressure in the space between the wound and the surface of the member,

coupling the port of the member to an irrigation source, and

irrigating the wound surface by sending an irrigation liquid from the irrigation source through the member to the wound surface of the wound.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the port of the member is a first port and the member includes a second port, and wherein the step of coupling a port of the member to a vacuum source includes coupling the first port to the vacuum source, and further wherein the step of coupling the port of the member to an irrigation source includes coupling the second port to the irrigation source.

40. (New) A method of treating a wound having a wound surface, the method comprising:

providing a relatively thin and flexible member having a wound contacting surface with holes in the wound contacting surface, a port to be attached to a vacuum source, a

plurality of passageways connecting the holes to the port, and spacers coupled to the wound contacting surface,

positioning the member so that at least some of the spacers rest against the wound surface to space the wound contacting surface of the member apart from the wound surface, and

providing a cover over the member to define a space above the wound surface in which a vacuum is formed when the port is connected to a vacuum source.